MR. NUNEZ: My name is Albert Nunez, and I've worked for most of my adult life at least on the commercialization of renewable energy technologies. I am testifying today primarily because my son is going to college approximately 85 miles from Yucca Mountain site. So in a sense, Yucca Mountain is in my own backyard. I will be brief and to the point.

1... Yucca Mountain is an unstable geological area which is proven by the numerous documented earthquakes

1 cont'd. that have taken place over the years. Mankind's ability to look at the geology of an area for evaluating its stability over a period of thousands and tens of thousands of years is well-known. Any geologist is able to evaluate this site and conclude that historically, at least, it has been quite active and on this basis should not be a serious contender for nuclear repository that must prevent any high-level waste leakage to the biosphere for a period of time on the order of 100,000 years.

2 It is my hypothesis that as greenhouse gases continue to be added to the atmosphere over the next several hundred years, global climate change will be exacerbated by ever increasing severe weather events with very large water mass shifts geographically. So what you may say? What's that got to do with Yucca Mountain? Well, as the continental plates experience large mass load shifting, does it not stand to reason that there will be an increased incidence of seismic activity? But nuclear power does not produce any CO2, you might add. But it does produce plutonium, which may be released to the biosphere during a seismic cataclysm.

3 Ground water migration in the area is also well-documented and should add to the scientific basis for

3 cont'd.

rejecting this as a final selected site for a high-level nuclear repository. Please take sometime to review the literature to evaluate the impacts of what if scenarios if the waste chambers became flooded in radionuclides or leached into the ground water. What have past radioecology studies at Nevada test site, Chernobyl, Rocky Flats, Project Rio Blanco, Hanford and other hot sites where tritium, et cetera, have been known to migrate off site taught us? Cannot correlations be drawn for Yucca and its surroundings? Should not the EIS ask these extremely difficult worst case questions? That way everyone goes into this waste priesthood, a clearly defined group of elite individuals who will need to be trained and cultivated to watch over and safeguard this waste for the material's life some tens of thousands of years with a full understanding, and at least a plan, for eventual catastrophic failure.

Well, what are we to do? We have let the genie out of the bottle, and I doubt that we are going to be able to put him back. I do not propose to have the answers to these questions. But I do know that it is quite possible

4

to make matters worse from the present status question. What seems to me to be a logical suggestion is to transmute the

4 cont'd.

high-level material to a lower grade material which will degrade to background radiation levels in hundreds of years, instead of thousands or hundreds of thousands of years. I realize that this is easier said than done.

But does it not make more sense to keep the materials where they are until we can develop a more viable method of disposal or reprocessing? I concur that something has to be done. But ideally, it should be real and quantifiable, not just a shuffle of the waste materials to a new location, which is fraught with its own set of potential disasters.

MR. LAWSON: 30 seconds please.

MR. NUNZIO: I am sorry that I cannot offer any further advice, except to say that current renewable energy technologies with optimized energy efficiency are capable of replacing both fossil and nuclear energy if the political will is there and true life cycle cost analysis are considered. Thank you for taking your time to listen to my comments today. If there's any time, I'll take questions and try to answer them.

MR. LAWSON: Thank you, sir. Next speaker is Ray Voide. Is Mr. Voide here? If he is not, Reinard

Knutsen. Following Mr. Knutsen would be Susi Snyder and Bonnie Kendrick.